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Attorney Docket No.:02:1586

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	DeGroot, Karl
SERIAL NO:	10/774,482
FILING DATE:	02/10/2004
FOR:	Fixed Dumbbell

Group Art Unit:3764

Examiner: Victor K. Hwang

SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

A telephone interview was conducted with the examiner Victor Hwang, on March 15, 2007. Previous to the conduct of the interview, the applicant faxed two proposed claims, claim A and claim B for consideration (attached hereto).

As to proposed claim A, the applicant's agent discussed the shear forces transmitted between the flange and the weight if the dumbbell were to be dropped. It was the applicant's position that the flange of the invention bore substantially all of the shear forces and that the bolts bore little of the shear forces. It was the applicant's position that the flange (collar) portion in the Schuur reference would not bear a substantial amount of any shear forces resulting from the dumbbell being dropped and that the shear forces would be borne by the shank 2.

The examiner disagreed with the applicant's position and was of the opinion that the flange in the Schuur reference would bear a significant portion of any shear forces resulting from the dumbbell being dropped. The examiner eluded to a reference in the application to the diameter of the recess being slightly greater than the diameter of the flanges. The examiner indicated that proposed claim A would be unpatentable over Schuur in view of the other references.

As to claim B, the examiner indicated that the claim would be allowable of the art of record.

By: Elias Borges

May 18, 2007



Part of
Interview
Summary

Proposed Claims

A. A dumbbell comprising:

a handle having an elongated central portion with opposite first and second ends, and a central axis;

a first flange formed on the first end and a second flange formed on the second end, the first and second flanges having first and second peripheral edges circumferentially surrounding the first and second flanges, respectively, the first and second peripheral edges being oriented substantially perpendicular to the first and second flanges, respectively, and substantially parallel to the central axis;

a first weigh having a first recess dimensioned and configured to receive the first flange, said first recess having a first internal wall circumferentially surrounding the first recess, the first peripheral edge abutting the first internal wall when the first flange is fully inserted into the first recess, the first flange and the first recess being dimensioned and configured such that first weight is substantially supported by the first edge of the flange;

a second weigh having a second recess dimensioned and configured to receive the second flange, said second recess having a second internal wall circumferentially surrounding the second recess, the second peripheral edge abutting the second internal wall when the second flange is fully inserted into the second recess, the second flange and the second recess being dimensioned and configured such that second weight is substantially supported by the second edge of the flange;

the first and second flanges being bolted to the weights by a plurality of bolts passing perpendicularly through the flange and into the weights, the bolts being substantially parallel to the axis, the first and second flanges, the bolts and the first and second recesses

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being dimensioned and configured such that any shear forces created between the handle and the weights caused by dropping the dumbbell are substantially transmitted between the peripheral edges of the flanges and the internal walls of the weights and not transversely through the bolts.

B. (Based on existing claim 18) A dumbbell comprising:

a handle having an substantially cylindrical central portion having opposite first and second ends,

opposite first and second flanges formed on the first and second ends of the handle, respectively, said flanges each extending perpendicularly from the central portion, each flange having a diameter, a thickness, an outwardly facing flat surface, a peripheral edge and a rim adjacent the peripheral edge,

opposite first and second weights attached to the first and second flanges, respectively, each weight having a recess, each said recess having a diameter, a depth, an inner flat surface, and an internal rim extending peripherally around the inner flat surface, the diameter and depth of the recesses corresponding to the diameter and the thickness of the respective flange, the flat surface having an annular groove extending circumferentially around the flat surface adjacent the internal rim.

each flange being retained in the recess of its corresponding weight with the outwardly facing flat surface of each flange abutting the inner flat surface of the corresponding weight and the rim of the flange abutting the internal rim of the corresponding weight.

each flange being secured to its respective weight by a plurality of bolts positioned along the flange adjacent the flange's peripheral edge.